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family life of the pigeons, and of birds in general, has long been cited as substantive evidence in favor of the existence of certain putative family instincts in man. Professor Whitman's study overturns some of the traditional beliefs about pigeon behavior in this connection and explains their instincts in such mechanistic terms that the instinctive theory of human conduct is weakened rather than strengthened by inference from these data. While the activities of pigeons are so much simpler than those of man as not to justify any considerable comparison, the comparisons one does feel justified in making can hardly be interpreted as supporting the extreme instinctivist theories of human conduct now dominant in certain quarters. The book is full of food for sociological thought.

L. L. BERNARD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Racial Factors in Democracy.* By PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS.

Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1918. Pp. x+278. \$2.50.

After tracing the evolution of the human race from lower Paleolithic times through a series of constantly linked cultures, the author concludes that invention and borrowing are the two fundamental laws of cultural growth. He pleads for more intelligent race-appreciation, for the application of democratic principles to cultural relationships, and develops the thesis that a better social order than the present one could be organized by applying the principle of cultural selection. Race contempt shown in proselyting, the thoughtless superimposition of political systems of the white race upon others, and race suspicion are condemned. The colonial policies of England and France have been less vulnerable in these respects than those of Germany and Spain.

Today the world is faced with two kinds of democracy: the leveling and destructive type represented by Bolshevism, and the kind in which the classes are based on individual merit. Majority rule is the best rule and the tendency is in this direction. But during the transition from rule by autocratic minorities we must look to guidance from an intelligent and decent minority.

The book is an odd mixture of liberality and conservatism, of successful effort to logically state modern anthropological doctrine, and of inconsistency in application. As a popular summary of a vast subject its main emphasis is sane and wholesome.

F. STUART CHAPIN

SMITH COLLEGE